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9 DEC 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Dr. Hornig's Proposal for Civilian Agency  
Review of T-KH Photography

REFERENCE : Dr. Donald F. Hornig's Memo to Director of Central  
Intelligence and Secretary Vance dated 7 November 1966

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1. Dr. Hornig is proposing to you and Secretary Vance that the US Army Corps of Engineers, with the assistance of [redacted] under contract to them, be designated to provide advice and support to cleared teams of economic and natural resource experts from NASA, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture and AID in reviewing T-KH photography pertinent to their interests. This would amount to the implementation of civilian uses of T-KH material authorized by the NSAM 156 Committee and subsequent recommendations by USIB. A recommendation is contained in paragraph 8.

2. You will recall that the NSAM 156 report specifically asked USIB to study the question of removing from codeword control the fact that the US has an operational satellite reconnaissance system, and to determine whether selected T-KH photography could be removed from T-KH controls to facilitate use of the material by the civilian agencies (or, alternatively, to clear a greater number of individuals to work with the T-KH material).

3. USIB recommended that NASA select a cleared panel of experts to "study materials at NPIC and exploitation procedures used at NPIC, the mapping, charting and geodesy community, etc.", after which NASA would make further recommendations concerning their use of T-KH material. COMINT was also directed to study the problem and report back to USIB within six months. The action by USIB was intended to keep the activities of these civilian groups within the established T-KH channels and to maintain NPIC as the initial control point.

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4. Dr. Hornig's proposal is not strictly in line with the USIB recommendations which were made on the basis of a thorough study of the NSAM 156 report by COMOR. The conclusions by COMOR, which were later emphasized in the discussions at USIB, are that there are so many unknowns at this stage in the development of an interdepartmental undertaking of this magnitude that the intelligence community should move cautiously and approach the problem step-by-step. Dr. Hornig's proposal, we believe, would move us too rapidly toward a potentially permanent focal point for this program in the Army Corps of Engineers, complete with built-in contractor, and over which you would have no direct control. Dr. Hornig's proposal would also include the use of KH-7 photography by the civilian agencies, while the NSAM 156 recommendations specified the use of U-2 and KH-4 photography only.

5. We recognize that NPIC is already heavily committed, but we feel that the introduction of civilian agencies into the classified program is of sufficient importance to warrant the allocation of some resources to assist in at least the initial phases.

6. The Office of Security will review all preparatory arrangements that are made for the visits of panelists to NPIC and on a continuing basis will monitor security procedures in connection with the review of the material.

7. The D/DCI/NIPE, the Director of Security for DD/S, the DD/SOT, the Director, NPIC and the Chairman, COMOR concur in the recommendation below and in the proposed reply to Dr. Hornig.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended you reply to Dr. Hornig, with a copy to Mr. Vance, suggesting that NPIC provide the support to the civilian agency review of T-KH material, at least in the initial phases, so that we can be in a better position to evaluate Dr. Hornig's suggestion. A draft reply is attached for this purpose.

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JAMES J. HITCHCOCK  
Chief

DD/I Collection Guidance Staff

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13 DEC 1966

The Honorable Donald F. Hornig  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Science and Technology  
The White House

Dear Dr. Hornig:

In your memorandum of 7 November you propose that the Army Corps of Engineers and an [redacted] provide the support required in reviewing the usefulness of T-33 materials to civilian agencies.

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I am sure that you recognize that the use of T-33 materials by civilian agencies for non-intelligence purposes represents a major new undertaking and is full of uncertainty and new problems. I am sure, too, that you would agree that we should proceed deliberately and step-by-step in developing effective procedures and working relationships which would protect my statutory responsibility for the security of this important source while expanding the usefulness to the U.S. Government of the product of overhead reconnaissance. In the initial phases, at least, I feel we should work forward from familiar ground and so I would suggest that NPIC, while already heavily committed, be tasked to assist cleared representatives of civilian agencies in developing working procedures, laying down security practices and exploring information processing techniques. In this effort we would welcome the assistance of the Corps of Engineers and their subcontractor, the [redacted]

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NPIC, as you know, contains an indispensable amount of experience and technical know-how which would be invaluable to the beginning stages of this new effort. Moreover, NPIC is fully aware of the security requirements involved and the practical problems of exploiting photography within them for a variety of purposes. I feel therefore that at the start we

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should avail ourselves of these assets, leaving the extent of  
KRG involvement in later stages to be decided on the basis of  
experience and the size of the civilian effort that may emerge.

If you agree, I will ask Mr. Lundahl to meet with you to  
work out detailed plans for your program.

In regard to your postscript, Secretary Freeman has been  
briefed for T-33 and appointments are being arranged to brief  
Secretaries Udall and Connor.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Director of Central Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance

CONCUR:

/s/ R. J. Smith

Deputy Director for Intelligence

13 DEC 1966

Date

DDI/CGS:JJHitchcock:jmm (9 Dec 1966)

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